

Graduation Requirements

Graduates must be prepared for professional careers and vocations now and in the future that require a highly-trained workforce. Towards this end, competitive graduates are active participants in high quality, educational experiences that provide rigorous and engaging courses and activities for successful postsecondary preparation. In addition to mastery of robust academic skills, students should also be well-rounded citizens who embody teamwork, leadership and character.

The following graduation requirements represent a college and career preparatory road map to assist all graduates and their families' plan for postsecondary success in a highly competitive, global market.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2020-2021, students shall complete the following graduation requirements:

COMPONENTS OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be met in order to graduate:

1. **RIGOROUS COURSEWORK** (aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards) – Graduates will complete a total of 24.5 credits in grades 9-12 to graduate.
2. **COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING AND READINESS** – Graduates will demonstrate college and/or career planning and readiness by successfully completing an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) and a Personal Financial Literacy Class.

In addition, the Board of Education will ensure integration of and/or alignment with the following:

- Postsecondary Workforce Readiness
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Standards
- English Language Proficiency Standards

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF COURSEWORK

A total of 24.5 credits shall be earned in grades 9 through 12 including completion of subject area requirements for graduation from a district high school. Students must be enrolled full-time each of their years in high school. (Full-time enrollment is defined by the Colorado Department of Education.) Sixteen quarters of attendance beyond the 8th grade also shall be required unless the student qualifies for early graduation.

Course credit shall be granted on the following basis:

1. Satisfactory completion of nine-week quarter courses: .25 credit
2. Satisfactory completion of 18-week semester courses: .5 credit
3. Satisfactory completion of 36-week year-long courses: 1 credit

Schools may designate specialized courses such as student aide to carry .25 credit.

Courses are listed below in the sequence and at the grade level they should be offered. Changes in sequence, grade level, or determination of a defined or acceptable equivalent must be approved by the Assistant Superintendent of Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction.

Of the 24.5 required credits, 7.5 shall be elective and 17 shall be distributed as follows:

Subject	Credits	Grade	Distribution
<i>English</i>	4	9 10 11 12	<i>9th Grade English</i> <i>10th Grade English</i> <i>11th Grade English (to include American Literature)</i> <i>Elective English Course(s)</i>
<i>Social Studies</i>	3 .5	9 or 10 10 or 11 11 or 12 9, 10 or 11	<i>World Studies (History and Geography)</i> <i>United States History</i> <i>United States and Colorado Government</i> <i>Personal Financial Literacy*</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	3	9 10 11	<i>Appropriate Entry-Level Course (Algebra I or higher)</i> <i>Appropriate Course</i> <i>Appropriate Course</i>
<i>(Pre-Algebra carries elective credit only and may not be used to fulfill mathematic graduation requirements except when a student is placed in specialized programming.)</i>			
<i>Science</i>	3	9-12	<i>Appropriate Lab-based Course</i>
<i>Physical Education</i>	2	9-12	
<i>Practical Arts</i>	.5	9-12	
<i>Fine Arts</i>	.5	9-12	
<i>Health</i>	.5	9	
<i>General Electives</i>	7.5	9-12	

*The Personal Financial Literacy requirement may also be met by taking an alternative course approved by the curriculum department.

Students are encouraged to consider the following areas when selecting electives: world languages, performing arts (i.e. music, dance, etc.), visual arts, practical arts, and career and technical education. All of these important areas strengthen students' learning in other subjects and support their ability to succeed in the 21st century.

No course credit shall be granted for less than a "D-" grade in a course.

Individual cases of hardship in meeting graduation requirements may be considered on merit by the building principal and the Area Assistant Superintendent.

For students who are receiving special education support and services, the IEP team will develop the IEP Transition Plan by age 15 that emphasizes postsecondary education, career training, employment and/or independent living skills. Students' IEPs will have a course of study that will provide for the attainment of the required credits for graduation and postsecondary goals.

Credit from other institutions and home-based programs

All students who enroll from outside the district must meet the district graduation requirements in order to graduate from the St. Vrain Valley School District. Both the principal and the Chief Academic Officer shall determine whether credit toward graduation requirements shall be granted for courses taken outside the district. Students who are currently enrolled in the district and wish to obtain credit from outside institutions, or through online programs, must have prior approval from the principal.

Credit for satisfactory completion of home study or non-accredited private school hours may be accepted in accordance with Board policy in meeting these graduation requirements.

Accredited, out-of-district, online courses **beyond** two credit hours must have prior approval of the Chief Academic Officer.

Students transferring into the District in 12th grade may have credits earned in the District certified to the school of prior attendance for graduation in order to graduate from the previous school/district attended.

The district may accept the transcripts from a home-based educational program. In order to determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with district requirements and district academic standards, the district shall require submission of the student's work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward graduation is sought. In addition, the district may administer testing to the student to verify the accuracy of the student's transcripts. The district may reject any transcripts that cannot be verified through such testing.

SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION OF COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING AND READINESS

Students must demonstrate college and/or career planning and readiness by completing St. Vrain Valley Schools' Graduation Capstone. In order to meet the Graduation Capstone requirements, students must successfully complete the following:

- Individual and Career Academic Plan (ICAP)
- Personal Financial Literacy Class

An ICAP is a multi-year plan that intentionally guides students and families in the exploration of career, academic and postsecondary pathways.

Beginning at the elementary and middle school levels, students will explore and participate in the ICAP process in preparation for high school.

In ninth grade, students will develop and maintain an ICAP throughout high school. Student ICAPs will assist the student and student's parent/guardian with meaningful planning for career and postsecondary success.

The following quality indicators will assist students in exploring successful completion of their ICAP: Self-Awareness, Career Awareness, Postsecondary Aspirations and Options, Environmental Expectations, Academic Planning, Employability Skills and Financial Literacy.

For students who are receiving special education support and services, collaboration will occur between the IEP team and the school to determine if a student will have an ICAP and an IEP Transition Plan or only an IEP Transition Plan to meet graduation requirements.

Definitions:

Graduation – when a student has met requirements and discontinued school attendance. Note: Following graduation, a student is no longer eligible to enroll in district courses including postsecondary option courses.

In order to graduate, a student will have:

1. Met or exceeded minimum Board requirements,
2. Completed the senior year (earlier departure is possible by obtaining permission for early graduation), and
3. Received a final transcript with a graduation date indicated.

Graduation exercises (commencement) – the ceremony celebrating graduation, held annually in the spring. Attendance at commencement is not required for a student to graduate and receive a diploma.

Transcript – the only official document which is maintained by the school district after graduation; therefore, the only official documentation of graduation.

Diploma – an unofficial certificate issued at commencement signifying graduation.

Postsecondary Workforce Readiness – the knowledge, skills and behaviors essential for high school graduates to be prepared to enter college and the workforce and to compete in the global economy.

-Content Knowledge – Social Studies and Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Mathematical Sciences, Science, Literacy

-Learning and Behavior Skills – Find and Use Information and IT, Creativity and Innovation, Collaboration, Work Ethic, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Civic Responsibility, Communication, Personal Responsibility, and Global and Cultural Awareness

Adopted: February 28, 1968
Revised: April 10, 1985
Revised: September 9, 1992
Revised: February 9, 1994
Revised: January 24, 2001
Revised: May 22, 2002
Revised: June 9, 2004
Revised: September 14, 2005
Revised: May 23, 2007
Revised: March 12, 2008
Revised: April 9, 2014
Revised: October 28, 2015
Revised: January 27, 2016
Revised: March 9, 2016
Revised: February 8, 2017
Revised: February 28, 2018
Revised: February 25, 2026

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-1-104 (teaching history, culture and civil government)
C.R.S. 22-1-104.7 (2)(a) (requirement to incorporate Holocaust and Genocide studies standards into existing course required for graduation)
C.R.S. 22-32-132 (discretion to award diploma to honorably discharged veterans)
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(kk) (board to establish graduation requirements that “meet or exceed” state graduation guidelines)
C.R.S. 22-32-132 (discretion to award diploma to honorably discharged veterans)
C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (home-based education law)
C.R.S. 22-35-101 *et seq.* (Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act)

CROSS REFS.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment
IHBG, Home Schooling
IHBK*, Preparation for Postsecondary and Workforce Success
IHCDA, Concurrent Enrollment
IK, Academic Achievement
IKA, Grading/Assessment Systems

St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, Longmont, Colorado